

REMARKS

Claims 18 and 33 were amended by the addition at the end of each claim of “the decoding means being operative for removing a pattern of stripes from the output of the sensor”. It is believed that this amendment, and the argument which follows, is sufficient to overcome the Examiner’s objections.

The Examiner argued in the final office action that the prior art citation, Kuribayashi, discloses a large blocking unit that can selectively block light on any position on an image pickup plane and so it would be possible to create stripes that will block light on the image pickup plane. The applicant respectfully disagrees that Kuribayashi discloses a filter means comprising stripes as claimed.

The purpose of the light blocking unit, described in Kuribayashi, is to reduce the amount of light reaching an image plane from regions of a scene of abnormally high intensity. As described at page 6, first full paragraph of the English language translation, a light control unit receives the video signal and outputs a control signal to the light blocking unit, so that elements of the light blocking units, at corresponding positions of high intensity, are changed so as to reduce the amount of light provided to the image plane from such regions of high intensity.

The purpose of the light control unit and light blocking unit in Kuribayashi, therefore, is to respond to bright areas within a scene, so as to reduce the amount of light from those bright areas reaching an image plane. The Examiner asserts that the light blocking unit could be arranged to create stripes. However, the light blocking unit is controlled by the light control unit, which itself derives the control signal from the video signal itself. Accordingly, the light blocking unit would

only be arranged in a series of stripes in the event that the scene being viewed is a series of bright stripes. Accordingly, Kuribayashi cannot be said to include the filter means comprising stripes.

The applicant further notes that even if the system disclosed in Kuribayashi were used to view a scene of bright stripes, such that the blocking means provided corresponding stripes, there is no decoding means disclosed in Kuribayashi to remove the pattern of stripes from the output sensor. The very purpose of the blocking means in Kuribayashi is so that the selected blocking elements are visible in the final image (that is the blocking elements reduce the amount of light and this effect is visible in the image). In contrast, the present invention uses the stripes as a mechanism for producing two different representations of a scene and then uses a decoding means arranged to remove the pattern of stripes from the output of the sensor, so that the stripes are not visible in the output signal.

In summary, Kuribayashi does not teach a filter means comprising stripes, nor a decoding means arranged to remove the pattern of stripes from the output of the sensor. Indeed, if the blocking unit of Kuribayashi were arranged in stripes, then stripes would appear on the final image.

Petition is hereby made for a two-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to September 15, 2005. A check in the amount of \$450.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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